

One of the items which drew the attention of the President was a provision in the House bill that placed a limitation on the Food and Drug Administration's funding for any testing, development, or approval of the drug RU-486, a chemical used to induce an abortion. Leaving for a moment the argument that science is better left to scientists than politicians, the inclusion of the abortion debate in the agriculture appropriations bill was a most unfortunate attempt to drag this bill down with one of the most divisive and politically charged issues of our time. I am very pleased to report that the Senate conferees made it crystal clear that the Senate was not going to allow the issue of abortion to infect the agriculture appropriations bill with the same paralysis that has inflicted other subcommittees. If the Senate had not held firm, a very bad precedent would have been set and all agriculture appropriations bills in the future would become the venue for, and be held hostage by, an issue best reserved for other forums.

The other item of Presidential disapproval is tied to the levels of assistance for farmers and ranchers who are facing the most pressing financial times in recent years, maybe ever. It is on this point that I had to part with my friend Senator COCHRAN and express an opinion that our measure falls short of meeting current needs.

The conference report includes provisions put forward by the majority party that strives to bring relief to farmers and ranchers who are suffering from lost crops and low prices. However, my concern is with the manner in which the assistance is to be provided. In order to help farmers suffering from low prices, the conference report would simply allow for additional "Freedom to Farm" payments to go to all producers who hold a Agricultural Market Transition Act contract. The fallacy with this approach is that it does not target the additional funds to people who are suffering from either crop failure or fallen prices. Instead, it makes funds available to landlords who may have received cash rent for their lands, suffered no loss at all, and in many instances never even faced a risk of loss in the first place.

We have to recognize that many, though not all, farmers across America are suffering. Most are suffering from losses this year, but some from losses over several years. Some farmers have a crop to harvest, but low prices preclude any chance of a profit. The purpose of the Democratic alternative for disaster assistance is to make sure the relief payments go to those in need.

I have heard from farmers in my State who have lost everything this year. They tell me that this year is worse than the crop failures of 1980, which was the worst year since the Great Depression. The Democratic alternative provides more relief, 100 percent more in fact, for farmers in my State and I feel we should not turn our

backs on the one segment of the national economy that has not been surging into double digit profits on Wall Street. The President has indicated he will veto this bill if additional farm relief is not added. Congress needs to act swiftly to amend the shortfall in this bill and send to the President a package that truly meets the needs of farmers and ranchers.

Mr. President, this brings me to the close of my last annual agriculture appropriations bill on the floor of the Senate. I want to once more thank my distinguished colleague, Senator COCHRAN, for his years of friendship on and off this subcommittee. I also want to thank all other members for their cooperation over the years.

Mr. President, I say in closing that this is a very complex matter, this matter of disaster relief. The only disagreement on this side and the other side of the aisle is over the disaster provisions. As I say, they are both fairly complicated, and I am hoping that if the President vetoes the bill, as he has promised to do, we will be able to work out something—maybe not everything the President wanted, maybe more than others wanted—and that we will be able to reach a compromise that will actually take care of farmers.

My fear is that, this being what I consider probably the worst year in the history for agriculture since the Great Depression, that the proposal in the bill is not adequate to save an awful lot of farmers who deserve saving. So I am hoping if the President does veto the bill, we can come back and hammer out an agreement that will save a lot more farmers.

I yield the remainder of my time.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, have the yeas and nays been ordered on the conference report?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. They have not been ordered.

Mr. COCHRAN. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There is a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired. The question is on agreeing to the conference report accompanying H.R. 4101. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. FORD. I announce that the Senator from Ohio (Mr. GLENN) and the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) are necessarily absent.

I further announce that, if present and voting, the Senator from New York (Mr. MOYNIHAN) would vote "aye."

The result was announced—yeas 55, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 298 Leg.]

YEAS—55

Abraham
Allard
Ashcroft
Bennett
Bond

Boxer
Breaux
Brownback
Campbell
Chafee

Coats
Cochran
Collins
Coverdell
Craig

D'Amato
DeWine
Domenici
Enzi
Faircloth
Feinstein
Frist
Gorton
Gramm
Grams
Grassley
Hagel
Hatch
Helms
Hutchinson
Hutchison
Inhofe
Jeffords
Kempthorne
Landrieu
Leahy
Lott
Lugar
Mack
McCain
McConnell
Murkowski
Nickles

Roberts
Roth
Sessions
Shelby
Smith (NH)
Smith (OR)
Snowe
Specter
Stevens
Thompson
Thurmond
Warner

NAYS—43

Akaka
Baucus
Biden
Bingaman
Bryan
Bumpers
Burns
Byrd
Cleland
Conrad
Daschle
Dodd
Dorgan
Durbin
Feingold

Ford
Graham
Gregg
Harkin
Hollings
Inouye
Johnson
Kennedy
Kerrey
Kerry
Kohl
Kyl
Lautenberg
Levin
Lieberman

Mikulski
Moseley-Braun
Murray
Reed
Reid
Robb
Rockefeller
Santorum
Sarbanes
Thomas
Torricelli
Wellstone
Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Glenn

Moynihan

The conference report was agreed to.

Mr. COCHRAN. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. CRAIG. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

Mr. LOTT addressed the Chair.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. LOTT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business until 4:15 p.m. today, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 5 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

Mr. THURMOND. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize former Navy and Marine Corps members who received the Distinguished Flying Cross in accordance with section 532 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999, which waived time limitations for award of this decoration for specified persons. These awards were recommended by the Secretary of the Navy based upon requests from Members of Congress. These procedures were established by section 526 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1996 to resolve a dilemma under which deserving individuals were denied the recognition they deserved solely due to the passage of time. I am proud to have established a procedure that enables these distinguished veterans to receive the honors they earned. We are very proud of their dedicated service to our Nation.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that a list of all who were awarded the Distinguished Flying Cross be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the list was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STROM THURMOND NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999, SECTION 532—WAIVER OF TIME LIMITATIONS FOR AWARD OF CERTAIN DECORATIONS TO CERTAIN PERSONS

(1) FIRST AWARD

Marine Corps

1. Mr. Earl D. Van Keuren, Jr., Fort Collins, CO.
2. Mr. James E. Renshaw, Runnemede, NJ.
3. Mr. Edward J. Mariani, Brockton, MA.
4. Mr. Andrew B. Jones, Old Lyme, CT.
5. Mr. John Avelis, Terre Haute, IN.
6. Mr. James R. Spencer, Grants Pass, OR.
7. Mr. Edward H. Benintende, Scranton, PA.
8. Mr. Clarence R. Cox, Woodburn, OR.
9. 2ndLt Leland E. Thomas, USMC Reserve, Fruitland, ID.
10. Mr. Edward L. Eades, Kerrville, TX.
11. Mr. Paul F. Dudley, Las Vegas, NV.
12. Mr. Raymond G. Czarnecki.
13. Capt Edward J. Wallof, USMC Retired, Soulsbyville, CA.
14. LtCol Edwin W. Allard, USMC Retired, Carlsbad, CA.
15. Mr. Jack S. Straub, Destin, FL.
16. Mr. William D. Donohue, River Vale, NJ.
17. Mr. Wallace W. Ostrowski, Carlsbad, CA.
18. Mr. William F. Savino, Yaphank, NY.
19. Mr. Sidney H. Zimman, Oceanside, CA.
20. Mr. Ned Wernick, Pensacola, FL.
21. Mr. Stephen F. Gibbens, Montecito, CA.
22. Mr. Theodore R. Wall, Pinellas Park, FL.
23. Mr. Harold W. Park, Rochester, PA.
24. Mr. Benson M. Jones, Columbus, GA.
25. Mr. Philip L. Strader, Lynchburg, VA.
26. Mr. Henry M. Knauth, Landrum, SC.
27. Mr. Theodore E. Sittel, Englewood, CO.
28. Mr. Frank J. Lange, Panama City, FL.
29. Mr. Ralph H. Rudeen, Olympia, WA.
30. Mr. Robert P. Byno Sr., Westwood, MA.
31. Mr. William M. Crutcher, Glenwood Springs, CO.
32. Mr. Thomas B. Hartmann, Princeton, NJ.
33. Mr. Marion F. Beckman, Stasuma, AL.
34. Mr. Frederick R. Scharnhorst, Richland, WA.

Navy

1. Mr. Robert E. Rosati, East Hartford, CT.
2. LT Edward T. Gaines, (USN (Ret.)), Lexington, KY.
3. CDR Ira B. West, USN (Ret.), Vienna, VA.
4. Mr. Stephen R. Michalovic, Clifton, NJ.
5. Mr. John T. Allen, Knoxville, TN.
6. Mr. Martin D. Lipman, Huntington Beach, CA.
7. Mr. Fay D. Hargrove, Longmont, CO.
8. Mr. Alfred F. Shultz.
9. Mr. James L. Andrews, Livonia, MI.
10. Mr. Lester L. Larson, Jr., Kingsland, TX.
11. Mr. Samuel P. Tyndall.
12. Mr. Edward J. Karcher, Port St. Lucie, FL.
13. Mr. Leo A. Pyatt, Columbus, OH.
14. Mr. Milton E. Ferrell, Nashville, TN.
15. Mr. Daniel G. Straka, San Clemente, CA.

(2) SECOND AWARD

Marine Corps

1. Mr. Sidney H. Zimman, Oceanside, CA.
2. Mr. Ned Wernick, Pensacola, FL.
3. Mr. Stephen F. Gibbens, Montecito, CA.
4. Mr. Paul F. Dudley, Las Vegas, NV.
5. Mr. Wallace W. Ostrowski, Carlsbad, CA.
6. Mr. William F. Savino, Yaphank, NY.

7. LtCol Edwin W. Allard, USMC Retired, Carlsbad, CA.
8. Mr. Raymond G. Czarnecki.
9. Captain Edward J. Wallof, USMC Ret., Soulsbyville, CA.
10. Mr. Jack S. Straub, Destin, FL.
11. Mr. William D. Donohue, River Vale, NJ.
12. Mr. Theodore R. Wall, Pinellas Park, FL.
13. Mr. Harold W. Park, Rochester, PA.
14. Mr. Benson M. Jones, Columbus, GA.
15. Mr. Philip L. Strader, Lynchburg, VA.
16. Mr. Henry M. Knauth, Landrum, SC.
17. Mr. Theodore E. Sittel, Englewood, CO.
18. Mr. Frank J. Lange, Panama City, FL.
19. Mr. Ralph H. Rudeen, Olympia, WA.
20. Mr. Robert P. Byno Sr., Westwood, MA.
21. Mr. William M. Crutcher, Glenwood Springs, CO.
22. Mr. Thomas B. Hartmann, Princeton, NJ.
23. Mr. Marion F. Beckman, Stasuma, AL.
24. Mr. Frederick R. Scharnhorst, Richland, WA.

(3) THIRD AWARD

Marine Corps

1. Mr. Theodore R. Wall, Pinellas Park, FL.
2. Mr. Harold W. Park, Rochester, PA.
3. Mr. Benson M. Jones, Columbus, GA.
4. Capt Edward J. Wallof, USMC Retired, Soulsbyville, CA.
5. Mr. Raymond G. Czarnecki.
6. Mr. Jack S. Straub, Destin, FL.
7. Mr. William D. Donohue, River Vale, NJ.
8. Mr. Philip L. Strader, Lynchburg, VA.
9. Mr. Henry M. Knauth, Landrum, SC.
10. Mr. Theodore E. Sittel, Englewood, CO.
11. Mr. Frank J. Lange, Panama City, FL.
12. Mr. Ralph H. Rudeen, Olympia, WA.
13. Mr. Robert P. Byno Sr., Westwood, MA.
14. Mr. William M. Crutcher, Glenwood Springs, CO.
15. Mr. Thomas B. Hartmann, Princeton, NJ.
16. Mr. Marion F. Beckman, Stasuma, AL.
17. Mr. Frederick R. Scharnhorst, Richland, WA.

(4) FOURTH AWARD

Marine Corps

1. Mr. Philip L. Strader, Lynchburg, VA.
2. Mr. Henry M. Knauth, Landrum, SC.
3. Mr. Jack S. Straub, Destin, FL.
4. Mr. William D. Donohue, River Vale, NJ.
5. Mr. Theodore E. Sittel, Englewood, CO.
6. Mr. Frank J. Lange, Panama City, FL.
7. Mr. Ralph H. Rudeen, Olympia, WA.
8. Mr. Robert P. Byno Sr., Westwood, MA.
9. Mr. William M. Crutcher, Glenwood Springs, CO.
10. Mr. Thomas B. Hartmann, Princeton, NJ.
11. Mr. Marion F. Beckman, Stasuma, AL.
12. Mr. Frederick R. Scharnhorst, Richland, WA.

(5) FIFTH AWARD

Marine Corps

1. Mr. Theodore E. Sittel, Englewood, CO.
2. Mr. Frank J. Lange, Panama City, FL.
3. Mr. Marion F. Beckman, Stasuma, AL.
4. Mr. William D. Donohue, River Vale, NJ.
5. Mr. Ralph H. Rudeen, Olympia, WA.
6. Mr. Robert P. Byno Sr., Westwood, MA.
7. Mr. William M. Crutcher, Glenwood Springs, CO.
8. Mr. Thomas B. Hartmann, Princeton, NJ.
9. Mr. Frederick R. Scharnhorst, Richland, WA.

(6) SIXTH AWARD

Marine Corps

1. Mr. Ralph H. Rudeen, Olympia, WA.
2. Mr. Robert P. Byno Sr., Westwood, MA.
3. Mr. William M. Crutcher, Glenwood Springs, CO.

4. Mr. Frederick R. Scharnhorst, Richland, WA.
5. Mr. Thomas B. Hartmann, Princeton, NJ.

(7) SEVENTH AWARD

Marine Corps

1. Mr. Thomas B. Hartmann, Princeton, NJ.

(8) EIGHTH AWARD

Marine Corps

1. Mr. Thomas B. Hartmann, Princeton, NJ.

(9) NINTH AWARD

Marine Corps

1. Mr. Thomas B. Hartmann, Princeton, NJ.

ENSURING ECONOMIC PROSPERITY

Mr. ABRAHAM. Mr. President, I rise today to make a few observations regarding the state of the American economy and the steps policy makers should take to ensure continued prosperity in the future.

Right now we have some good news about the state of the economy. Overall employment growth is strong. Unemployment is low at 4.5 percent nationally and an even lower 3.9 percent in my home state of Michigan. Family incomes continue to rise. And the technological and information age revolution continues to increase productivity and wealth throughout America.

Hi-tech companies in particular are growing fast and creating thousands of spin-off jobs. Economist Larry Kudlow reports that the hardware and software industries combined account for about one third of real economic growth. What is more, this industry is increasing productivity throughout our economy in ways we can't even measure.

So, on the surface things look pretty bright right now, Mr. President. But there are economic storm clouds on the horizon. Stock market investors are riding a roller coaster of volatility. The August Employment Report from the Bureau of Labor Statistics shows a drop in manufacturing jobs of 55,000—indeed, the number of manufacturing jobs in this country has declined for 5 straight months. Bankruptcies have accelerated. On the international front, the Russian economy is in deep distress. And our Asian economic partners continue in a state of crisis that threatens our balance of payments and our general economic health.

As Federal Reserve Chairman Greenspan noted recently in a speech at the University of California at Berkeley, "it is just not credible that the United States can remain an oasis of prosperity unaffected by a world that is experiencing greatly increased stress."

I wholeheartedly concur in Chairman Greenspan's analysis. And that is why I believe it is necessary for us to look closely and seriously at our current economic policies so that we can face coming economic uncertainties from a position of strength. We must, in my view, address a number of problems in current policy, lest they undermine continued economic growth and prosperity.